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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/378,526	08/20/1999	STEPHEN IREMONGER	CLARP026/P24	9248

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EXAMINER

ROMERO, ALMARI C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/378,526

Applicant(s)

IREMONGER ET AL.

Examiner

Almari Romero

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed on 8/20/99 and the IDS filed on 4/18/00.

2. Claims 1-38 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 17, and 31 are independent claims.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

3. References “Microsoft Access 97, Report Wizard” and “Lotus Approach: Exploring Approach” listed in the Information Disclosure Statement filed 4/18/00 on have not been considered failing to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because each publication listed in an information disclosure statement must be identified by publisher, author (if any), title, relevant pages of the publication, **date**, and place of publication. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that the date of any re-submission of any item of information contained in this information disclosure statement or the submission of any missing element(s) will be the date of submission for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements based on the time of filing the statement, including all certification requirements for statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e). See MPEP § 609 ¶ C(1).

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 1, “Cross-Reference to Related Application” section of the specification, Applicant is reminded to insert related applications serial numbers and the status of each application, if allowed or in patent prosecution.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Drawings***

5. The drawings filed on 8/20/99 are objected to as indicated in the attached PTO-948 form. Formal corrected drawings can be filed at allowance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 1-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheffield (USPN 5,832,481 - filed on 10/14/1997) in view of Wright, Jr. (USPN 5,704,029 - issued on 12/30/1997).**

**Regarding independent claims 17 and 31, Sheffield discloses:**

A method for creating a report layout for data stored in a database, said method comprising:

(a) the at least one summary field being associated with one of the fields in the list of fields, the report layout including a plurality of parts including a header area, a grand total area, a summary area, a body area, and a footer area (Sheffield on col. 17, line 33 – col. 18, line 8, col. 19, lines 363-47, and col. 27, lines 19-24: teaches fields from script are associated with different areas in the DataWindow); and

(b) automatically creating the report layout, said creating includes placing the summary field in at least one of the grand total area and tie summary area, and placing the fields in the list of fields in the body area (Sheffield on col. 17, line 33 – col. 18, line 8, col. 19, lines 363-47, and col. 27, lines 19-24: teaches populating fields from a script into areas such as summary area and body area of the DataWindow).

However, Sheffield does not explicitly disclose, “performing an interview sequence to obtain organization information, the organization information including at least a list of fields and at least one summary field for the report layout”.

Wright, Jr. (Wright) on col. 13, lines 39-42 and col. 14, lines 1-31: teaches interviewer, number of fields already answered and a history of the answered fields.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Wright into Sheffield to provide an interviewer to obtain information put into fields and populate fields into areas in the DataWindow in order to accurately and easily gather information and present it for further processing in a known format.

**Regarding dependent claim 18,** Sheffield discloses:

wherein when the summary field is a subtotal, said creating (b) places the subtotal in the summary area (on col. 17, line 60 – col. 18, line 8 and col. 27, lines 19-24: teaches aggregating totals in summary area).

**Regarding dependent claim 19,** Sheffield discloses:

wherein the subtotal is placed in the summary area at a position corresponding to the position as the associated one of the fields placed in the body (on col. 17, line 33 – col. 18, line

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8: teaches retrieved data are placed in summary area and can be associated with the data in body area).

**Regarding dependent claim 20**, Sheffield discloses:

wherein the subtotal is placed in the summary area in the same column location in the report layout as the one of the fields placed in the body that corresponds thereto (on col. 17, line 33 – col. 18, line 8: teaches data in the column of summary area can be in the same column as of the body area).

**Regarding dependent claim 21**, Sheffield discloses:

wherein when the summary field is to grand total summary field, said creating (b) places the grand total in the grand total area (on col. 17, line 60 – col. 18, line 8: teaches aggregating totals (totals can be grand total) into an area such as footer area or summary area).

**Regarding dependent claim 22**, Sheffield discloses:

wherein the grand total summary field is placed in the grand total area at a position corresponding to the position as the associated one of the fields placed in the body (on col. 17, line 33 – col. 18, line 8: teaches retrieved data can be placed in the summary area when totals are aggregated and can be associated with the data in body area).

**Regarding dependent claim 23**, Sheffield discloses:

wherein the grand total summary field is placed in the grand total area in the same column location in the report layout as the one of the fields placed in the body that corresponds thereto (on col. 17, line 33 – col. 18, line 8: teaches data placed in a column being a total can be in the same column as of the body area).

**Regarding dependent claim 24**, Sheffield discloses:

wherein said method produces a report for the data using the report layout, and wherein said method further comprises: (c automatically creating a script to run the report (on col. 19, lines 33-47: teaches run script which is in the DataWindow).

**Regarding dependent claim 25, Wright discloses:**

wherein the script is requested during the interview sequence (on col. 3, lines 41-55: teaches script is needed to perform actions such as displaying questions (interviewer; col. 13, lines 39-42 and col. 14, lines 1-31)).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Wright into Sheffield to provide an interviewer to obtain information put into fields and populate fields into areas in the DataWindow in order to accurately and easily gather information and present it for further processing in a known format.

**Regarding dependent claim 26, Sheffield discloses:**

wherein the organization information further includes sort fields for the report or layout (on col. 27, lines 19-24: teaches information fields).

**Regarding dependent claim 27, Sheffield discloses:**

wherein said method further comprises: (c) producing a report for the data using the report layout (on col. 17, lines 61-63: teaches DataWindow areas used for print report).

**Regarding dependent claim 28, Sheffield discloses:**

wherein said producing (c) sorts the data in accordance with the sort fields for the report (on col. 19, lines 33-47: teaches sorts or matches data into DataWindow column).

**Regarding dependent claim 29, Sheffield discloses:**

wherein the organization information further includes a theme selection for the report layout (on col. 18, lines 1-8: teaches selects objects or attributes to enhance the appearance of the DataWindow).

**Regarding dependent claim 30, Sheffield discloses:**

wherein the organizational information includes at least first and second of summary fields, the first summary field is a grand total summary field and the second summary field is summary field, and wherein said creating (b) of the report layout comprises: (b1) placing the first summary field in the grand total area; (b2) placing the second summary field in the summaries area; and (b3) placing the fields in the list of fields in the body area (on col. 17, line 33 – col. 18, line 8 and col. 27, lines 19-24: teaches information fields placed in the body area, summary area, footer area of the DataWindow to populate data into the body area and aggregate totals into the footer area).

**Regarding dependent claim 32, Sheffield discloses:**

wherein the organization information further includes header or footer information for the layout or report, the header or footer information including at least one of a logo and custom text (on col. 17, line 33- col. 18, line 8: teaches header or footer area includes logo).

**Regarding dependent claim 33, Sheffield discloses:**

wherein the organization information further includes a category that identifies the field on which the report layout is organized (on col. 3, lines 8-36: teaches table with number of rows for all employees in the company (category) which contains columns with elements such as name, department (fields)).

**Regarding dependent claim 34, Sheffield discloses:**



wherein the organization information further includes a plurality of categories that are ordered, and the categories identify the fields and a hierarchy on which the report layout is organized (on col. 3, lines 8-36: teaches retrieving data from table to be placed on a source such as a spreadsheet).

**Regarding dependent claim 35, Wright discloses:**

wherein said computer readable medium further comprises: (c) automatically creating a script to run the report layout based on the interview sequence (on col. 3, lines 41-55: teaches script is needed to perform actions such as displaying questions (interviewer; col. 13, lines 39-42 and col. 14, lines 1-31)).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Wright into Sheffield to provide an interviewer to obtain information put into fields and populate fields into areas in the DataWindow in order to accurately and easily gather information and present it for further processing in a known format.

**Regarding dependent claim 36, Sheffield discloses:**

wherein the organizational information further includes at least one summary field for the report layout, the at least one summary field being associated with one of the fields in the list of fields, and wherein said computer program code for creating the report layout comprises: computer program code for placing the summary field in at least one of the grand total area and the summary area and placing the fields in the list of fields in the body area (on col. 17, line 33 – col. 18, line 8 and col. 27, lines 19-24: teaches information fields placed in the body area, summary area, footer area of the DataWindow to populate data into the body area and aggregate totals into the footer area).

**Regarding dependent claim 37, Sheffield discloses:**

wherein the summary field is a subtotal or a grand total of the data in the associated fields (on col. 17, line 60 – col. 18, line 8 and col. 27, lines 19-24: teaches aggregating totals in summary area).

**Regarding dependent claim 38, Sheffield discloses:**

wherein the summary field provides one of a total, count, average, minimum, and maximum of the data for the field associated with the summary field (on col. 18, lines 1-8: teaches average, count, min, max).

**Regarding independent claim 1, Sheffield discloses:**

A method for creating a report or layout for data stored in a database, said method comprising:

(a) the at least one summary field being associated with one of the fields in the list of fields (Sheffield on col. 17, line 33 – col. 18, line 8, col. 19, lines 363-47, and col. 27, lines 19-24: teaches fields from script are associated with different areas in the DataWindow); and

(b) automatically creating the report or layout (Sheffield on col. 17, line 33 – col. 18, line 8, col. 19, lines 363-47, and col. 27, lines 19-24: teaches populating fields from a script into areas such as summary area and body area of the DataWindow).

However, Sheffield does not explicitly disclose, “performing an interview sequence to obtain organization information, the organization information including at least a list of fields and at least one summary field for the report or layout”.

Wright, Jr. (Wright) on col. 13, lines 39-42 and col. 14, lines 1-31: teaches interviewer, number of fields already answered and a history of the answered fields.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Wright into Sheffield to provide an interviewer to obtain information put into fields and populate fields into areas in the DataWindow in order to accurately and easily gather information and present it for further processing in a known format.

**Regarding dependent claims 2 and 11,** Sheffield discloses:

wherein the summary field is a subtotal or a grand total of the data in the associated fields (on col. 17, line 60 – col. 18, line 8 and col. 27, lines 19-24: teaches aggregating totals in summary area).

**Regarding dependent claims 3 and 12,** Sheffield discloses:

wherein the summary field provides one of a total, count, average, minimum, and maximum of the data for the field associated with the summary field (on col. 18, lines 1-8: teaches average, count, min, max).

**Regarding dependent claim 4,** Sheffield discloses:

wherein the list of fields is an ordered list of fields (on col. 3, lines 8-36: teaches retrieving data from table to be placed on a source such as a spreadsheet).

**Regarding dependent claims 5 and 6,** Sheffield discloses:

wherein the organization information further includes a style for the layout or report (on col. 17, line 33 – col. 18, line 8: teaches presentation style).

**Regarding dependent claim 7,** Sheffield discloses:

wherein the style for the layout or report identifies particular characteristics for the layout or report including a plurality of background color, text size, text font, text style, and other colors (on col. 18, line 1-8: teaches enhance appearance with color, fonts, text styles).

**Regarding dependent claims 8-10**, the limitations of claims 8-10 are a method for processing in the computer readable medium of claims 32-34 and are rejected under the same rationale.

**Regarding dependent claims 13 and 14**, Sheffield discloses:

wherein said method produces a report, and wherein said method further comprises: (c) automatically creating a script to run the report (on col. 19, lines 33-47: teaches run script which is in the DataWindow).

**Regarding dependent claim 15**, Sheffield discloses:

wherein the organization information further includes sort fields for the report or layout (on col. 27, lines 19-24: teaches information fields).

**Regarding dependent claim 16**, Sheffield discloses:

wherein the report or layout has a plurality of parts, the parts including header, grand total, summary, body, and footer (on col. 17, line 33 – col. 18, line 8: teaches header, summary, body, footer (which footer can include total)).

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

USPN 6,292,811 B1 – Clancey et al. – filed on 07/13/1998


USPN 6,298,347 B1 – Wesley – filed on 08/25/1998

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Almari Romero whose telephone number is (703) 305-5945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays - Fridays (7:30am - 4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (703) 308-5186. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

AR  
October 17, 2002

  
HEATHER R. HERNDON  
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